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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/680,798	10/06/2000	Alain Benayoun	FR9-1999-0035 US1	2906

7590

07/02/2004

ATTEN: ANDREW DILLON
BRACEWELL AND PATTERSON LLP
111 CONGRESS AVENUE
SUITE 2300
AUSTIN, TX 78701

EXAMINER

BURGESS, BARBARA N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2004

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

2

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/680,798

Applicant(s)

BENAYOUN ET AL.

Examiner

Barbara N Burgess

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 7-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 7-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to amendments filed April 9, 2004. Claims 2-6 have been cancelled as requested by Applicants. Claims 1, 7-14 are presented for further examination. Claims 15-27 are presented for initial examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1- are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lai et al. (hereinafter "Lai", US 2001/0052057 A1).

As per claims 1, 15, 22, Lai discloses a communication device for transferring data between two devices coupled to a network, said communication device comprising:

- A dual-port memory for storing data (paragraphs [0026], [0028]);
- A high-speed interface for transmitting, said data between a first device and said dual port memory, wherein said high-speed interface

communicates data at an initial rate (paragraphs [0026]-[0028], [0030]-[0031], [0033]);

- A plurality of low-speed interfaces, each connected to a respective one of a plurality of links to said second device, for transmitting data from said dual-port memory to said respective one of said plurality of links at one of a plurality of data rates, wherein at least two of said plurality of data rates are unequal and are fractions of said initial rate, all said fractions being capable of reduction to a common denominator and at least one of said fractions being irreducible (paragraphs [0030], [0034]-[0035], [0037], [0041]);
- Controller for controlling said memory and said interfaces and for monitoring a data rate of said data between said memory and said plurality of links, wherein said controller includes means for cyclically distributing data to be communicated from said memory to said second device among said low-speed interfaces, such that each of said plurality of low speed interfaces receives a number of consecutive units of said data equal to the numerator of its associated fraction (paragraphs [0012], [0027], [0030], [0040]).

As per claims 7, 16, 23, Lai discloses the communication device of Claim 1, wherein, at least one of the set of said high-speed interface and said plurality of low speed interfaces comprises means for establishing a connection with a modem (paragraphs [0030], [0033]-[0034]).

As per claims 10, 17, 24, Lai discloses the communication device of Claim 1 wherein said hi-speed interface further comprises means for receiving said data at an said initial rate, wherein said initial rate is equal to a sum of said plurality of data rates (paragraphs [0030]-[0031], [0034], [0036]-[0037]).

As per claims 11, 18, 25, Lai discloses the communication device of Claim 10, wherein at least two of said data rates are equal (paragraphs [0037]-[0038]).

As per claims 12, 19, 26, Lai discloses the communication device of Claim 1, wherein said initial rate equals a sum of said plurality of data rates (paragraphs [0030]-[0031], [0034], [0036]-[0037]).

As per claims 13, 20, 27, Lai discloses the communication device of Claim 1 said controller further comprises means for reporting said data rates (paragraphs [0012], [0027], [0030], [0040]).

As per claims 14, 21, Lai discloses the communication device of Claim 1, wherein said high speed interface further comprises means for transmitting said data at said initial rate wherein said initial rate is equal to a sum of said plurality of data rates and at least two of said data rates are unequal (paragraphs [0037]-[0038]).

Response to Arguments

The Office notes the following arguments:

- (a) Swales does not explicitly disclose each feature recited by Amended claim 1.
- (b) Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the combination of Swales with Zikan, because the combination does not teach or suggest all of the elements of Applicant's amended claims.

In response to:

- (a)-(b) Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

- 3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 6,732,305

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N Burgess whose telephone number is (703) 305-3366. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

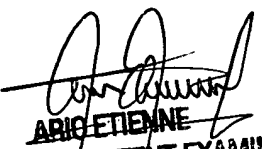
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (703) 308-7562. The fax

Art Unit: 2157

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barbara N Burgess
Examiner
Art Unit 2157


ARIELLE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100